

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W

----- 079845

R 051608Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3480

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 5114

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA REPORTS ARAFAT COMMENTS

1. PRAVDA MAY 5 CARRIES EXCERPTS FROM A DISCUSSION WITH YASIR ARAFAT IN BEIRUT BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT K. GEYVANDOV. ARAFAT REPORTEDLY PRAISED HIGHLY THE SOVIET STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST AS "NEW PROOF" OF THE STRONG SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE "PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION" AND THE "LEBANESE NATIONAL-PATRIOTIC MOVEMENT." ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, ARAFAT MADE A BOW TO THE MIDDLE EAST REMARKS IN BREZHNEV'S 25TH CONGRESS SPEECH, REPEATED SOME OF THE STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR A SETTLEMENT, AND CLOSED WITH AN EXPRESSION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THANKS FOR THE "HELP AND SUPPORT" FROM "OUR SOVIET

FRIENDS."

2. COMMENT. THE PLETHORA OF POSITIVE GENERALITIES,
AND ACCOMPANYING DEARTH OF SPECIFICS, MAKES US QUESTION
HOW ENTHUSIASTICALLY ARAFAT GREETED THE SOVIET STATE-
MENT, OR, FOR THAT MATTER, WHETHER HE EVEN CONSIDERED
IT SIGNIFICANT. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, OF COURSE, THE
PRAVDA VERSION HAS BEEN "CONDENSED", AND THE PLO LEADER
MAY HAVE IN FACT OFFERED SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS REGARDING SPECIFIC
POINTS IN THE SOVIET STATEMENT.
STOESSEL

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